

RONNY L. JACKSON  
13TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

446 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3706

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THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

HOUSE REPUBLICAN WHIP TEAM

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4313**

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
H-307, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515


The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Pampa TX & TTUHSC Infant Risk Center Collaborative Pampa, TX in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Pampa, Texas located at 200 W Foster Ave #205, Pampa, Texas 79066. The city of Pampa, Texas will use the funding to work with the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center on behalf of at-risk pregnant women in the community. Specifically, this funding will be used to purchase IT equipment and improve a facility for practitioners and community members. The IT equipment will be used to connect pregnant women in Pampa, Texas, surrounding communities, and the Health Sciences Center through an audio/visual interface to provide telehealth services as needed. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the Infant Risk Center (IRC) at Texas Tech University's Health Sciences Center in Amarillo is a nationally recognized resource for mothers, physicians, nurses, and lactation consultations that provides guidance to nursing mothers on drug interactions. Since 2013, the IRC has published more than 25 drug studies and has more currently in development. In addition to filling the need for additional research into drug interactions for nursing mothers, the IRC has the opportunity to expand its work into maternal and infant health as the university expands the use of telehealth to reach rural patients. The Health Sciences Center has a relationship with the City of Pampa, a rural community where the local hospital no longer has a labor and delivery unit. Many women in Pampa, and other rural communities in Gray County, are forced to give birth in Amarillo, Hereford, or other cities. Currently, only 40 percent of rural hospitals in Texas offer labor and delivery services, and many lack sufficient physicians and nurses to provide care or pharmacists to assist patients.

With this funding, the Health Sciences Center will coordinate outreach with the city, community partners, and regional healthcare providers to provide resources for expecting mothers and conduct public health research to reduce maternal and infant mortality. The Health Sciences Center will also use its capabilities in telemedicine to ensure women in need of care can connect with a provider in a timely manner. As the Infant Risk Center grows into a resource for Pampa with this funding, the city and surrounding rural communities will be better integrated into the Health Sciences Center's clinical resources and research priorities. The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a). I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, nor does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

  
Ronny L. Jackson  
Member of Congress